

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 EUR-12 /083 W
-----120542 260222Z /65

P R 250928Z MAY 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0854
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSULL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 1548

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP SREF CH VM

SUBJ: PRC DENOUNCES HANOI ON REFUGEES

REF: STATE 132622 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PEKING HAS USED UNUSUALLY HARSH LANGUAGE
IN DENOUNCING VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES FOR PERSECUTION
OF VIETNAM'S CHINESE MINORITY. CALLING HANOI'S ACTIONS
VICIOUS AND DESPICABLE, THE PRC CHARGES THAT VIETNAMESE
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OFFICIALS HAVE DEPRIVED CHINESE RESIDENTS OF THEIR
MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD, FORCED THEM TO FILL IN "VOLUNTARY
REPATRIATION" DECLARATIONS, AND STRIPPED THEM OF ALL
BELONGINGS BEFORE DRIVING THEM ACROSS THE BORDER. IT
FURTHER CHARGES THAT SOME OF THE EXPELLED CHINESE HAVE
BEEN BEATEN UP AND WOUNDED, WHILE "GRAVE INCIDENTS OF
MASS ARREST AND WOUNDING AND KILLING OF CHINESE RESI-

DENTS" HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN HO CHI MINH CITY.
ACCORDING TO NCNA, BY MAY 20 OVER 72,000 REFUGEES HAD
CROSSED THE CHINESE BORDER.

2. THE PRC STATEMENT ENDS WITH A DEMAND THAT THE
VIETNAMESE STOP THE OSTRACISM, PERSECUTION AND
EXPULSION OF CHINESE RESIDENTS. OTHERWISE, HANOI
WILL "BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES" OF THESE MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

3. THE PRC GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED ITS FIRST OFFICIAL
STATEMENT ON THE PROBLEM OF CHINESE REFUGEES FROM
VIETNAM SINCE THE ISSUE WAS PUBLICIZED BY LIAO CHENG-
CHIH APRIL 30. THE NEW STATEMENT, RELEASED ON MAY 24,
AND ATTRIBUTED TO AN UNNAMED SPOKESMAN OF THE OVER-
SEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE STATE COUNCIL, GOES
FAR BEYOND LIAO'S SPEECH DENOUNCING HANOI FOR
"VICIOUS" PERSECUTION OF ITS CHINESE MINORITY AND
HOLDING THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE
FOR ITS PERSECUTION AND UNSPECIFIED CONSEQUENCES.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PEKING STATEMENT, THE DISLOCATION
OF VIETNAM'S CHINESE BEGAN IN EARLY 1977 AS AN EFFORT
TO "CLEAR UP THE BORDER AREAS" AND DEVELOPED GRADUALLY
INTO A "MASSIVE EXPULSION OF CHINESE RESIDENTS IN ALL
PARTS OF VIETNAM." THE PRC HAS TRIED TO USE PERSUASION,
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BUT HANOI'S ONLY RESPONSE HAS BEEN TO STEP UP ITS
PERSECUTION. CHINESE RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM
THEIR JOBS, DEPRIVED OF THEIR FOOD RATIONS, AND
"PLUNDERED" OF THEIR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS SO THAT MOST
REFUGEES HAVE REACHED THE BORDER WITH "NOTHING
EXCEPT THE CLOTHES THEY WERE WEARING." SOME HAVE
BEEN BEATEN UP AND WOUNDED. SOME HAVE EVEN BEEN
"COMPELLED" BY "VIETNAMESE PUBLIC SECURITY PERSONNEL"
TO FILL IN A "FORM OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION" BEFORE
BEING TRANSPORTED TO THE BORDER AND DRIVEN ACROSS.
THIS "MASSIVE EXPULSION" IS DESCRIBED AS A "PURPOSEFUL
AND PLANNED LINE OF ACTION CARRIED OUT BY THE VIETNAMESE
AUTHORITIES ON INSTRUCTIONS."

5. THE STATEMENT ALSO GIVES CREDIT TO EARLIER REPORTS
OF ANTI-CHINESE POGROMS IN CHOLON. IT STATES THAT IN
HO CHI MINH CITY AND OTHER PLACES, THERE WERE "GRAVE
INCIDENTS OF MASS ARREST AND WOUNDING AND KILLING OF
CHINESE RESIDENTS."

6. THE STATEMENT DENONCES XUAN THUY'S MAY 4 STATEMENT
WITHOUT NAMING HIM. IT STATES THAT HE "DISTORTED THE

FACTS" IN ORDER TO BLAME THE CHINESE FOR THE REFUGEE
EXODUS, MAKING THE "SLANDEROUS" CHARGE THAT THE MOVE-
MENT WAS CAUSED BY RUMORS SPREAD BY BAD ELEMENTS AMONG
THE CHINESE. ON THE CONTRARY, ACCORDING TO THE PEKING
STATEMENT, IT IS VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PEKING 1548

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PERSONNEL WHO HAVE SPREAD FALSE RRUMORS OF CHINESE
AGGRESSION AGAINST VIETNAM AND OF A PRC CALL TO OVER-
SEAS CHINESE TO RETURN TO THE MOTHERLAND.

7. THE STATEMENT ALSO REVIEWS THE QUESTION OF THE
NATIONALITY OF VIETNAM'S CHINESE MINORITY. WHILE
CREDITING BOTH HANOI AND THE NLF WITH A POLICY OF
VOLUNTARY NATURALIZATION IN THE EARLY YEARS, IT
CHARGES THAT VIETNAM HAS IN RECENT YEARS "GONE BACK ON
ITS WORD AND ABANDONED THE PRINCIPLE OF VOLUNTARY CHOICE
OF NATIONALITY". INSTEAD, IT HAS COMPELLED CHINESE
RESIDENTS TO ADOPT VIETNAMESE NATIONALITY "ON
PENALTY OF LOSING THEIR WORK PAPERS, HAVING THEIR
STAPLE AND OTHER FOOD RATIONS CUT, PAYING HEAVY TAXES

AND EVEN BEING DEPORTED."

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8. THE STATEMENT CONCLUDES BY "DEMANDING" THAT VIETNAM STOP ITS POLICY OF "OSTRACIZING, PERSECUTING AND EXPELLING THE CHINESE RESIDENTS." OTHERWISE, "THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM THESE UNWARRANTED MEASURES."

9. THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, ISSUED IN THE FORM OF AN INTERVIEW WITH NCNA, WAS CARRIED ON PAGE TWO OF THE MAY 25 PEOPLE'S DAILY AND TOOK UP MUCH OF THAT DAY'S RADIO NEWS BROADCAST. IT WAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED TO AT LEAST SOME PEKING EMBASSIES (NOT INCLUDING USLO). THUS WHILE THE BLAST AT HANOI IS AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL FOR AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, IT HAS BEEN GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY IN BOTH THE CHINESE AND DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES.

10. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE THE SAME DAY, NCNA STATED THAT THE REFUGEE TOTAL IN KWANGSI AND YUNNAN PROVINCES HAD REACHED 72,000 BY MAY 20. THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES CROSSING AT A SINGLE POINT HAD SURPASSED 4000 IN A SINGLE DAY. BORDER CROSSING POINTS UTILIZED WERE NAMED AS HOKOU IN YUNNAN, TUNGHSING AND PINGHSIANG IN KWANGSI, AND THE KWANGSI PORT OF PEIHAIN IMPLYING THAT A CERTAIN NUMBER HAVE REACHED CHINA BY SHIP. THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO A AREFUGEE FLOW TO HAINAN ISLAND. DESCRIPTIONS OF CHINESE MEASURES TO CARE FOR THE NEW ARRIVALS MAKE IT CLEAR PEKING HAS NO INTENTION OF SENDING THEM BACK.

11. WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD OF ANY VIETNAMESE REACTION TO YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH WE WILL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ONE. IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH AN ASIAN DIPLOMAT, HOWEVER, VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR VINH

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HAD ASCRIBED THE REFUGEE FLOW TO CHANGES IN ECONOMIC POLICIES IN VIETNAM AND PARTICULARLY IN SAIGON, IN APPARENT DISREGARD OF THE FACT THAT THE MAJORITY OF REFUGEES SO FAR COME FROM THE NORTH. HE ALSO STATED THAT HANOI WOULD GIVEN ANY CHINESE CITIZEN AN EXIT VISA WHENEVER IT WAS REQUESTED.

12. COMMENT. PEKING'S MAY 24 STATEMENT RAISES THE

REFUGEE PROBLEM TO THE STATUS OF AN OFFICIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM. THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP, ASSUMING IT HAS NOT ALREADY OCCURRED, MIGHT WELL BE AN OFFICIAL PRC PROTEST TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. THE CHINESE ARE DEMANDING THAT VIETNAM END ITS PERSECUTION OF THE CHINESE MINORITY, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING ITS POLICY OF RELOCATION OF CHOLON BUSINESSMEN INTO NEW ECONOMIC ZONES. HANOI WILL PROBABLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEDE TO THIS DEMAND, AND THE DISPUTE IS LIKELY TO ESCALATE STILL FURTHER.

13. IT APPEARS THAT THE REFUGEE SITUATION, COMING SO SOON AFTER WHAT IT VIEWS AS VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA, IS FORCING PEKING TO ABANDON ITS PRETENSE OF MAINTAINING FRIENDLY TIES WITH A "FRATERNAL" VIETNAM. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT MAKES NO CHARGE THAT HANOI HAS ABANDONED THE PATH OF SOCIALISM, NEITHER DOES IT ACKNOWLEDGE ANY FRATERNAL LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBORS OTHER THAN FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES. (WE NOTE IN THIS RESPECT HONG KONG'S REPORT THAT THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN HANOI NO LONGER SITS AT THE "SOCIALIST" STABLE.) THUS IT APPEARS THAT HANOI, THROUGH ITS HARSH ACTION TOWARDS THE CHINESE MINORITY, HAS FINALLY PUSHED ITSELF COMPLETELY OVER TO THE MOSCOW SIDE OF THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE, ABANDONING ITS PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN SOME SORT OF BALANCE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE TWO COMMUNIST GIANTS.

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